

AEHA

Allergy and Environmental Health Association - Ottawa Branch - P.O. Box 33023, Nepean, Ontario K2C 3Y9

Ms Joanne Rosen,
Ontario Human Rights Commission,
12th fl - 400 University Ave.,
Toronto, Ontario. M7A 2R9

19 April 1993

Dear Ms Rosen,

Thank you very much for your kind letter of 13 April. Mr. Maillet made the same suggestion several years ago. Ms. Therese Legault, who ran your Ottawa office several years ago, also made the same recommendation. Marty Schreiter collected information for years as well. (His mother was in our organization. He has not been helpful. Perhaps there is a connection.)

The fact that the Ontario Human Rights Commission, which spends a lot of time dealing with relatively minor issues, has had in its possession for several years information that indicates there is a virtual certainty of horrific abuse of psych patients whose problems are caused by sensitivities, and has not acted in ways provided by its mandate, does not add much to our confidence in your organization, particularly considering those affected do not know themselves who they are, and so cannot lay a complaint on their own behalf. Certainly it is part of the story of the abuse of persons with this disability that you stood by doing nothing for years while persons with this problem killed themselves.

Amazingly, your Toronto office, in what once would have been unbelievable stupidity, uses the organization run by the abusers, namely the Ontario Medical Association, as reference in determining the validity of our complaints against the Toronto Board of Education. It is equivalent to using the Catholic Church as a reference concerning the Christian Brothers.

Perhaps your staff is too overworked to think clearly about what it is doing? I personally believe your staff has an attitude problem in connection with this disability. Certainly I have never talked to anyone in Toronto who understands the issues involved, and I have talked to a lot of (arrogant) people who do not understand the issues.

At this point the Commission is in the pile with others we are keeping track of who did not use their mandate to help, and who stood idly by while our members are physically and emotionally abused. New people, such as yourself, come along from time to time and give lip service to your mandate, but it is now seven years since I asked you to act on behalf of those who are not being screened out of the psych population. No one has ever got back to me with the positions defending the abuse of this group. There has been no intelligent discussion of issues or strategy.

I did have a very pleasant talk with Ms Frazee, once, but Peter Hoy, in her office, has been a useless twit capable of giving a straight answer about nothing. He should be fired simply from an efficiency point of view.

Your very kind letter insults because it charades as a sympathetic letter of understanding, but it comes from an organization that has offended far too often to gain credibility with words. Nonetheless I thank you for your opinion about the Office for Disability Issues. You will know by now that the same act you defined as "reprisal" in that instance, has been committed by your Minister. It would seem that the higher one goes, the more your integrity thins.

Sincerely,

Chris Brown - Ottawa Branch President